

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 - 19 (Canceled).

20 (Currently amended). An isolated IL-1lp consisting of a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence of nucleotide positions from 118 to 618 in the sense strand of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:4), wherein said polypeptide binds to an IL-18R ECD, but not to an IL-1R ECD.

21. (Canceled).

22 (Previously presented). The isolated IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 33 consisting of amino acid residues from about 37 to about 203 of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:5).

23 - 25 (Canceled).

26 (Previously presented). The IL-1lp polypeptide of any one of Claims 31, 32 or 33 fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.

27 (Original) . The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 26, wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is an epitope tag sequence.

28 (Previously presented). The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 26, wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

29-30 (Canceled).

31 (Previously presented). An isolated IL-1lp polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA insert of ATCC Deposit No.: 203587.

32 (Previously amended). The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 31 encoded by the human cDNA insert of ATCC Deposit No. 203587, excluding the first 36 N-terminal amino acid residues.

33 (Previously amended). An isolated IL-1lp polypeptide that binds to an IL-18R ECD, but not to an IL-1R ECD, consisting of an amino acid sequence of residues 37 to 203 of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:5), or a variant thereof having 1 addition, deletion or conservative substitution.

34 (Previously presented). The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 33, wherein the variant has 1 additionally substituted amino acid residue.

35 (Previously presented). The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 33, wherein the variant has 1 deleted amino acid residue.

36 (Previously presented). The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 33, wherein the variant has 1 conservatively substituted residue.